Missouri Nursery Pest News

Office of the State Entomologist
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Recent Observations:

Degree Day Accumulations

Along with using certain blooming plants as indicators for treatment timing, keeping track of degree-day accumulations can be a useful tool for anticipating certain biological events. As of April 23, 2003: Based on temperature data from **Boone County** (MU South Farm) totals are **268 DDB50**; based on temperature data from **Cape Girardeau**, they are at **276 DDB50**. According to Coincide the following pests are vulnerable to control at this time:

Ash Plant Bug First Application at 100-200 DDB50
Fletcher Scale First Application at 100-200 DDB50
Spruce Spider Mite First Application 100-200 DDB50
Zimmerman Pine Moth First Application 100-200 DDB50
Taxus Mealybug First Application 200-300 DDB50
Pine Needle Scale First Application 200-350 DDB50
Ash/Lilac Borer Begin Applications at 275-500 DDB50
Oystershell Scale (gray race) First Application 275-500 DDB50

Rust Galls Emerge

During the past week the rainy weather has caused the cedar-apple rust galls on junipers to send out "horns" (telia) followed by gelatinous tendrils, which protrude from the galls. Tendrils may be one inch or more in length and range in color from bright orange to brown. Spores (teliaspores) from the tendrils are spread by the wind to susceptible hosts such as apple, hawthorn, quince and flowering crab. Try to avoid planting junipers and eastern red cedar close to susceptible rosaceous hosts. Protective sprays should begin at budbreak (of the rosaceous host) and continue for 4-5 weeks. Several nurseries have reported good control when following this treatment approach. Rust cankers can be pruned off branches that are lightly infected. Planting resistant varieties is recommended.

A number of chemicals are listed for cedar-apple rust control: Systhane WSP, Banner Maxx, Cygnus 50WG, Clearys 3336, wettable sulfur.

Insects

Sawflies on Hibiscus

Adult sawflies have been observed mating on hardy hibiscus. The adult is a wasp-like insect. The larvae of this pest can cause significant damage when feeding on the leaves (they are usually found on the underside of the foliage). While Sevin is often recommended for control of caterpillars and other larvae, it has been known to scorch the leaves of hibiscus. Unofficial observations have shown several life cycles per year in this area.

Eastern Tent Caterpillar

The webs of the eastern tent caterpillars are becoming much larger in size. For home applications, the webs can still be treated with recommended chemicals, or removed by hand and disposed of. This is best done in the evenings after the caterpillars have fed during the day and returned to the "tent" at night. Within a few weeks they will become adult moths to mate and lay egg masses for next year.

Greenhouse

For the greenhouse growers, more powdery mildew has been observed on Kalanchoes and more mealybugs than usual have been seen this year (St. Louis area). Maybe coincidence, but it is a reminder to keep plants in a separate growing area for the first few weeks after arrival to avoid spreading infections or infestations.

Contributions by Susan Ehlenbeck, Larry Hanning, and Collin Wamsley.

For more information:

See MU Agricultural Guide publication G7870 – Cedar Apple Rust